GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7454
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2000
TARGETS FOR TELEPHONE FACILITY IN RURAL AREAS
ARUN KUMAR;RAM SHAKAL;RAMJI LAL SUMAN;SHANKERSINH VAGHELA;SUKDEO PASWAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets fixed for providing telephone facility in the rural areas of the country during the last three years as on March 31,2000;

(b) whether the said targets have been achieved ;

(c) if not , the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have increased the annual target of providing telephone facility in the villages of the country;

(e) if so, the target set for 2000-2001, State-wise;

(f) whether the private sector companies have also been entrusted with the responsibility of achieving the said targets ; and g) if so, the ratio to be shared by the said companies?

Answer

Minister of State for Communications

(Shri Tapan Sikdar)

a) No targets are fixed for provisioning of telephones in rural areas due to lack of demand . However, for VPTs targets were fixed as given below:

Year	Target
1997-98	83,000
1998-99	45,000
1999-2000	45,089

b) In last 3 years, telephones provided and VPTs installed in the rural areas are as under:-

Year	DELs provided	VPTs installed
1997-98	6,65,591	42,855
1998-99	6,63,031	37,040
1999-2000	11,89,484	33,965

c) In case of VPTs targets could not be achieved due to the reasons of non-receipt of the equipment in time in most of the cases, law and order problems in some areas, difficult hilly terrain , poor road transport and non-availability of stable power supply in the villages etc.

d) & (e) Yes, Sir. The State-wise targets set for 2000-2001 for providing VPT facility are given in the enclosed Annex.

f)&(g) Yes, Sir. The private sector companies are likely to provide about 24% of the total VPTs target for the period 2000-2002.